ABSTRACT

Methods are described for automatically presenting at least one definition in context, for a dictionary entry, based a contextual analysis of the grammatical unit, such as the sentence, the clause, or the phrase, in which the dictionary entry is embedded. The dictionary entry may be single word, for example, "consideration," or a word combination, such as "due to," provided the word combination appears in an ordinary dictionary as a single entry. A definition in context will generally include a definition in accordance with the function of the word in the grammatical unit, and may further include a preferred definition from among several options for the same function, based on contextual clues within the grammatical unit. Similarly, a translation in context may be presented. The present invention further relates to a method of preparing automatic-translation viable documents, in a first language, adapted for accurate automatic translation, to a plurality of languages. Additionally, interactive automatic translation software is taught, for use in tandem with a human translator. These may be performed by a supercomputer, a personal computer, a laptop, a palmtop, a stand-alone hand-held, computerized scanning apparatus, or over the web.